

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 08289 130522Z

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ACTION EA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7440

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 8289

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, LA

SUBJECT: ROK MISSION IN VIENTIANE

REF: BANGKOK 19391

1. MOFA OFFICIALS HAVE TOLD US THAT CHIN IN-TAK, WHO
WAS HEAD OF ROK TRADE MISSION IN VIENTIANE AND SUBSEQUENTLY
ALSO CHARGE THERE, RECENTLY ATTEMPTED SUICIDE AND IS
CURRENTLY RECOVERING IN A BANGKOK HOSPITAL. WHILE MOFA IS
RELUCTANT TO DISCUSS DETAILS, IT APPEARS THAT MR. CHIN
HAD BECOME DEEPLY INVOLVED IN SOME KIND OF FINANCIAL SCANDAL.
AS REFLECTION OF ROKG CONCERN THAT RELATIONS WITH LAOS NOT
SUFFER AS A RESULT OF CHIN'S ACTIVITIES, MOFA LAST WEEK
DISPATCHED ASSISTANT MINISTER KIM CHONG-TAE TO BANGKOK TO
INVESTIGATE. KIM EVIDENTLY CONCLUDED THAT SITUATION CALLED
FOR IMMEDIATE REPLACEMENT OF CHIN BY KIM EI MYUNG.

2. WE AGREE WITH EMBASSY BANGKOK THAT KIM EI MYONG IS
EXCELLENT CHOICE TO PURSUE ROK INTERESTS IN VIENTIANE.
ERICSON

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